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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Sweden

SUBJECT Soviet Propaganda Efforts in Scandinavia/
Baltic "Peace Cruise" of the Batory

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1. In August and September 1954 the Polish M/S Batory made a so-called "Peace Cruise", which the Swedish Peace Committee had arranged. Approximately 800 passengers were on board, including 594 Swedes, 18 Norwegians, 110 Finns, and 78 Danes.
2. Itinerary: The Batory left Stockholm on 26 Aug. 54, and arrived back there on 10 Sep. 54, having visited the following places: Copenhagen, Rostock-Warnemünde, Gdynia, Helsinki, and Leningrad.
3. Coverage of the Batory's Cruise: The information contained in this report comes from Ny Dag and the other Communist papers. Except for Expressen, the other Swedish papers completely ignored the trip. Expressen confined its report to a mention of the good food and like topics and passed over in silence Ny Dag's lengthy descriptions and its emphasis on the "historic importance" of the cruise.
4. Although a number of the passengers were duped, as is evident from the statements they made in interviews and resolutions, the impression on the mass of the Swedish people was negligible, in part because Ny Dag provided the only comprehensive coverage.
5. The passengers' statements concerning the importance of the cruise and concerning conditions in Germany (Soviet Zone), Poland, and the USSR were contained in interviews conducted by Ny Dag and in a resolution approved by the travelers during the course of a "peace meeting" held in Stockholm at the end of the trip.

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6. Prices: The price of the trip was rather cheap, ranging from 625 to 700 Swedish kronor, everything included, depending on whether three or four people slept in a cabin. Some typical prices for drinks on board were: vodka, 50 ore per glass; bottle of Bordeaux, 3 kronor; White Lady, 2.20 kronor.
7. Food: The food on board was excellent and plentiful. Breakfast consisted of fruit juice and cereal or porridge, bacon and eggs, omelette, and coffee or tea. Both lunch and dinner began with various salads, smoked eel, salmon, and other such dishes, followed by soup, fish or meat, cheese, fruits, ice cream, and coffee.
8. Principal Events: The tone of the entire trip was set upon departure from Stockholm, where the travelers were termed "ambassadors of peace" by Dr. Andrea Andreen. In Copenhagen all passengers attended a meeting and listened to a speech on peace by Prof. Mogens Fog. In Wismar/Rostock there were more speeches, a soccer game which the travelers watched, performances by 'amateur youth ensembles', and a dinner at the club of the Neptun shipyard. There followed a five-day visit to Leningrad where the voyagers listened to numerous speeches, made a conducted tour of the city, dined at the Hotel Astoria and the Hotel Europa, went to the opera and ballet, were entertained by artists sent from Moscow, and visited a tobacco factory and the Kirov Stadium. The hosts for this stay were the city of Leningrad and the Peace Committees for Leningrad and the USSR.
9. Personalities:
 - a. Bengt Gunnas: Secretary of the Swedish Peace Committee. He went on the cruise, saw to all arrangements, and addressed the passengers in Leningrad.
 - b. Anton Strand: Apparently a member of the Swedish Peace Committee. He went on the cruise and saw to all arrangements (along with Gunnas).
 - c. Dr. Andrea Andreen: Soviet Peace Prize winner and member of the "neutral commission" which "confirmed" that the UN had waged bacteriological warfare in Korea. She spoke to the Batory passengers upon their departure from Stockholm at the beginning of the cruise and termed them "ambassadors of peace".
 - d. Prof. Mogens Fog: Chairman of the Peace Partisans in Denmark. He spoke to the Batory voyagers at Copenhagen on the theme that contact between peoples forwards the cause of peace and that the peoples must force the Great Powers to the conference table in order to achieve a relaxation of international tension.
 - e. Karl Mewis: Secretary of the SED* in Mecklenburg. He addressed the Batory passengers at Wismar/Rostock.
 - f. Heinz Willmann: Secretary General of the German Peace Movement. He addressed the Batory voyagers at Wismar/Rostock.
 - g. Irene Olaszewska: Stewardess on the Batory. The Batory's woman passengers held numerous conversations with Olaszewska, who spoke at length of conditions in Poland.
 - h. Mikhail Kotov: Chairman of the Soviet Peace League. He addressed the Batory travelers in Leningrad.
 - i. Erna Watson: Representative from the Danish Peace Committee. She addressed the Batory travelers in Leningrad.
 - j. Christina Porkkala: Representative from the Finnish Peace Committee. She addressed the Batory travelers in Leningrad.
 - k. Solveig Sudman: Representative from the Norwegian Peace Committee. Addressed the Batory travelers in Leningrad.
 - l. R. Deprasinsky: Representative from the Polish Peace Committee. Addressed the Batory travelers in Leningrad.
 - m. Dr. Peter Varenus: Chairman of the Swedish Peace Committee. At the "peace meeting" held for the Batory passengers upon their return to Stockholm Varenus made the speech of welcome.

*Socialist Unity Party (Germany - Soviet Zone)

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10. Soviet Propaganda Themes: The cruise in general was featured by low prices, plentiful and good food, lavish (although highly-organized) entertainment, numerous mass meetings at which Peace Committee representatives spoke, and guided tours. The following USSR propaganda themes were evident in speeches, meetings, and conversations.

a. Peace: Each speaker emphasized the necessity for closer contacts between peoples to further the cause of peace by forcing the Great Powers to confer and to achieve a relaxation of international tension.

b. Community of interests among the Baltic countries: This was linked with the peace theme and identified the USSR as a Baltic power. Emphasis was also placed upon the desirability of bringing about closer economy and cultural relations among the Baltic Sea peoples. It was also stated that action by the Baltic Sea countries for a peaceful solution of the German problem and action for the establishment of guarantees (not specified) for Europe's security would be of great importance to the stabilization of the international situation.

c. Absence of personal restrictions in the countries visited: The German (Soviet Zone) "People's Police" were presented as "the best of friends with the people". In Leningrad it was emphasized that the travelers were quite free to go out alone, that nobody was interested in any passenger who cared to walk around alone without escort, and that there were no passport or customs control.

d. Women's rights in Poland: The stewardess Olszewska stated to the women passengers of the batory that the Polish Women's League worked first for peace and that Polish women were very happy to talk with Swedish women professing the same ideals. She also said that the Polish constitution had established equal wages for women in Poland and that the Polish state encouraged vocational training for girls. She emphasized that married women with children could leave their children in the care of creches at the establishments where they worked. Although creches do not yet exist at all establishments in Poland, they are to be found in the major ones. Women with children receive full pay and are excused from work during the child's illness. Pregnant women receive three months' exemption from work and a complete layette for the child.

e. The benevolent Polish state and constitution. See the item on women's rights in Poland.

f. Excellent working conditions in Polish hospitals: The normal working day is said to be eight (8) hours. In sanatoria the normal working day is said to be (7) hours; and in X-Ray departments and TBC sections five (5) hours daily and five (5) days per week. After 25 years' service every nurse receives a full pension irrespective of his or her age. To date, there has been set no maximum age for service.

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